



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00251

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Behaviour of Cyclists for Last 2 Years

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I want to know how many cyclists, in the past 2 years have been cautioned, fined or prosecuted for the following offences:

- Dangerous cycling
- Breaches of the highway code
- No lights
- Cycling when unfit

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information as follows:

Please find below a table giving the details for the number of cyclists that were cautioned, referred for prosecution or issued a Fixed Penalty Notice for the years 2013 and 2014. Please note, there is no specific offence for pedal cyclist breaching the highway code and these figures have been extracted from a live system and are provisional and subject to change.

Number of Pedal Cyclists Cautioned, Referred for Prosecution or Issued a Fixed Penalty Notice: 1st January 2013 - 31st December 2014			
	Caution	Referred for Prosecution	Fixed Penalty Notice
Dangerous cycling	1	19	8
No lights on pedal cycle	2	2	11
Cycling when unfit through drink or drugs	4	20	0
Total	7	41	19

Question 2

What is the PSNI strategy for improving the behaviour of cyclists on the road?

Answer

The PSNI are engaging with partners in a number of key areas designed to improve cyclist behaviour, driver behaviour and relationships between all road users.

- We work in the primary school sector to assess Cycling Proficiency in Year 7.
- PSNI are represented on the DRD Cycling Forum which is seeking, as one of its aims, to encourage responsible cycling in NI.
- We worked with DoE last year to produce an advertisement to target both cyclists and drivers encouraging them to share the road.
- We meet every year with Cycling Ulster to discuss the events for year ahead, identify those requiring a police escort; advise more generally on marshalling of their other events and to remind organisers to make provision for communities adversely impacted by their events.
- We have run operations to engage with cyclists and offer advice on hi-visibility clothing, handing out some safety aids and tactics to keep themselves safe on the roads.
- Police officers are issued with Fixed Penalty Notices that may be issued to cyclists for cycling offences.

Question 3

Please advise on the legal position of packs of cyclists riding two abreast or as a pack. Is this allowed? Do they need to seek police permission if it is a cycling club?

Answer

The Highway Code offers clear advice to cyclists at Rule 66, specifically; “You should...never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads or when riding round bends”. Failure to comply is not a specific offence, but may be dealt with as a case of “Careless Cycling”. There is no requirement imposed upon cycling clubs to advise or seek permission from police for club “ride-outs”.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner’s Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect

confidentiality.